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Myanmar's economic outlook looks to brighten in 2014

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 18 June—The International Monetary Fund in a statement issued Tuesday predicted Myanmar will see a slightly pickup in growth to 8.5 per cent in the current fiscal year, but it stressed the need to ensure the growth is sustainable and inclusive through the "decisive implementation" of a broad range of policy and structural reforms.

The IMF released the statement at the conclusion of a mission led by Matt Davies who held talks with Union ministers, the Central Bank of Myanmar governor and other senior officials, parliamentarians, representatives from the private and civil sectors, donors and the diplomatic community during a June 4-17 visit to Myanmar for the 2014 Article IV Consultation discussions.

Davies, IMF's Myanmar mission chief, said in the statement inflation is expected to remain around an annual rate of 6.5 per cent this year while increasing capital inflows outweigh a widening external current account deficit and money and credit to the economy will continue to expand at double-digit rates.

But, the IMF warned of risks to the economic outlook, pointing out demand-side pressure on inflation and large capital inflows will strain the still-infant macroeconomic management tools.

With the expected entry of foreign banks to the already rapidly growing financial sector, there will be further demand for macroeconomic policy and scarce supervision capacity will be stretched, it said.

The mission chief, in the statement, highlighted the importance of keeping the deficit ratio under 5 per cent of gross domestic product while also expanding development

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Traffic going around Maha Bandoola Park in downtown Yangon of Myanmar where economic growth can be seen at 8.5 per cent in the current fiscal year, according to IMF statement.
PHOTO: YE MYINT

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Myainggalay-Yangon 20-inch diameter natural gas pipeline repaired

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—The Ministry of Energy has distributed the natural gas as usual through Myainggalay-Yangon 20-inch diameter natural gas pipeline which has been repaired since 17 June, announced the Ministry.

The pipeline caused gas leak near Tawgyi Village in Thaton Township and the Ministry started the repair work on 13 June.—*MNA*

Tatkon Township tops two others in selection for World Bank-supported CDD project

By *Ye Myint*

U Thiha Zaw, deputy administrator of Tatkon Township, told The New Light of Myanmar on Wednesday there should be a focus for better transportation and rural electrification as it can contribute towards higher living standards among people, especially those from village-tracts.

He made the remarks after the township was ranked first in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area for getting a benefit from a World Bank-supported project.

Topping Lewe and Pyinmana townships, Tatkon was selected as first priority following consultations among 20 groups of stakeholders at a consultation meeting on township selection for the National Community Driven Development Project in Nay Pyi Taw Territory on Tuesday.

For the second year of the community-based project, the meeting followed consultation meetings in Yangon, Sagaing, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Kayin and Rakhine states, with departmental officials, responsible persons from non-governmental organizations, civil society groups and development partners and local people taking part in the selection process at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

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A junction at the centre of Tatkon Township in which Work Bank-supported CDD project will take place.
PHOTO: AUNG KYAW KYAW

Union Industry Minister meets General Manager of Marubeni Corporation

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 June—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint met Mr. Tetsuro Terasaka, General Manager of Marubeni Corporation Tokyo Head Office, on Wednesday at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, to discuss bilateral cooperation in manufacturing caustic soda and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) at Caustic Soda Plant which will be constructed in Thaton of Mon State.—*MNA*

Officials urged to increase exports to international market

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 June—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing urged the experts and market managers to increase export to the markets of Singapore, Thailand and Japan with the use of one village, one product system on Wednesday at a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister inspected the thriving of organic fruits Papaya, Palethwe hybrid monsoon paddy, watercress, dragon fruit and the new export product taro fields at 900-acre farmland in Ottarathiri Township.

The Union Minister also urged the officials to increase export of dragon fruit to the international market and to distribute quality seeds to the farmers. He also viewed the harvesting of Palethwe hybrid summer paddy near Tegyikon Village in Zabuthiri Township.—*MNA*

Inauguration of office of Swedish Embassy, providing high awards of honour to Myanmar National held

Yangon, 18 June—The new office of the Embassy of Sewden was officially inaugurated on 6th June at the Nordic House on No.7, Pyithu Lane, 7th mile, Pyay Road in Yangon.On the occasion, Dr Myint Han, Honorary Consul of Sweden was decorated with high awards of honour the "DIPLOM" and "the Royal Order of the Polar Star—Officer First Class" awarded by His Majesty Carl Gustaf XVI, King of Sweden.

The decoration was proceeded by Mr. Klas Molin, Swedish Ambassador to Myanmar, in recognition of his long and close relationship with Sweden and of his achievements, services and contributions to Sweden and Myanmar. Dr Myint Han is one of the first Myanmar national to receive the high prestigious awards of honour from the King of Sweden.—*NLM*

Dy ECF Minister receives company director

***Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin meets Mr Pacholk Pongpanich, Director of Mumbai-based UPL Limited of India.*—MNA**

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 June—Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin met Mr Pacholk Pongpanich, Director of Mumbai-based UPL Limited of India and Tatva Global and Pacific Deed (Thia) Limited at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday afternoon.

They discussed Myanmar national environmental policies and strategies, the environmental conservation law and rules, rules for scrutinizing the environmental impacts, and opportunities for UPL Limited to carry out the tasks related to environmental conservation such as use of chemicals in agriculture sector of Myanmar, and seeds and waste management.

MNA

Chefs participate in contests in Food and Hotel Myanmar 2014

Ko Min Myat Min of Mingaladon Township taking part in Myanmar National Barista competition.

Yangon, 18 June—The Food and Hotel Myanmar 2014 kicked off at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township on Wednesday.

Over 250 companies from 29 countries participated in the Myanmar foodstuff contest, the coffee and beverages contest, the Ahra-ASEAN Bartender contest and the food safety talks.

The Food Science and Technology Association of Myanmar will give educative talks on safety of foods at the meeting hall of MCC on Thursday morning.

A total of 150 chefs are taking part in the Myanmar foodstuff contest and 15 in the coffee and beverages contest. Contestants from Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand will take part in the AHR-ASEAN Bartenders contest on 20 June.

Thant Zin Win

Japanese government provides $ 680,224 for four projects in Sagaing Region, Chin State

Third Secretary of Japanese Embassy Mr Kota Watanabe formally opens new school building in Thantlang Township.

Yangon, 18 June—The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance totalling US$ 680,224 for four projects.

The Japanese government provided US$ 117,668 for construction of Nan Han Nwe Village Basic Education Middle School in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, US$ 99,179 for construction of rural health branch in Falam Township, Chin State, US$ 313,745 for construction of No.3 BEHS in Haka Township, Chin State and US$ 149,632 for construction of BEHS branch in Thantlang Township, Chin State.

The hand-over and opening ceremonies of these four projects were held in Kalay Township in Sagaing Region and Falam, Haka and Thantlang Townships in Chin State on 14th, 15th and 16th June 2014 respectively.

GGP/NLM

Lucky draw winners awarded

Yangon, 18 June—A ceremony to award winners in the lucky draw programme organized by Blue Mountain soft drink was held at the hall of Loi Hein Company in Lanmadaw Township on Wednesday.

Deputy Managing Director U Han Min Lwin of the company presented prizes to five winners. Over K510 million as rewards have been given to winners in the lucky draw programme.—*Soe Thaw Zin*

EU recognizes achievements of reform process in Myanmar

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with EU Ambassador Mr. Roland Kobia at the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—President U Thein Sein received EU Ambassador Mr. Roland Kobia at the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday to hold talks about assistance of the European Union for reforming the Myanmar Police Force to become the international level police force and local peace-making process.

They also discussed assistance for the peaceful coexistence among both communities in Rakhine State and development affairs, the recognition of the EU over the achievements of reform process in Myanmar, and more cooperation in all sectors.

MNA

Construction plans for more hydropower plants set

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June— Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Maw Thar Htwe on Wednesday said hydroelectricity is a renewable energy that will not lose water resources, adding plans are underway to construct more hydropower plants in the future.

During the 10th session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the deputy minister said the installed capacity in Myanmar now is 4,362 MW from all hydropower sources.

The Ministry of Electric Power has estimated electricity demand will increase 13 per cent each year, and that plans are being made to reserve 30 per cent of electricity.

U Maw Thar Htwe also said the ministry has drawn a master plan based on stability, low cost and conservation of natural and social environments to become a generation mix of power from appropriate energy sources.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw recorded the 'Bill for Amendment of Utilization of Roads and Bridges Law' and 'Bill for Amendment of Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law' that have been approved by the Lower and the Upper houses.

The Hluttaw also heard a report of the Bill Committee on the 'Bill for Association Registration Law' on which the two houses of parliament have some controversy.

At the ninth session of the Lower House on Wednesday, representatives discussed a bill and asked two questions concerning the shortage of parking spaces in Yangon and Mandalay and on foreign investment.

Concerning the question on foreign investment, Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission U Zeya Aung said that the State has not faced losses from production sharing operations with foreign firms as there are no disputes between the government and the foreign companies.

The government has not approved a proposal to mine nickel in Mway hill in Kalay Township in the Sagaing Region and Tiddim Township in Chin State, said Union Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung at the ninth session of the Upper House on Wednesday.

The union deputy minister also told the session that having formed a technical team, his ministry is still studying the result of a feasibility test conducted with the permission of the Myanmar Investment Commission by North Mining Investment Co Ltd.

According to the test, it is estimated that there are 42 million tons of metal ore composed of 1.37 per cent nickel, 16.32 per cent iron, 0.88 per cent chromium, 21.72 per cent magnesium dioxide, 39.46 per cent silica and other metal compounds.

The deputy minister promised the session that the mining project will be implemented only after approval by the experts in a transparent consultation with the state government, the regional government and the local people to avoid future problems.

The first feasibility test was conducted by Kingbao Mining Ltd of China, but the company had to stop its tests due to the lack of technology.—*MNA*

Myanmar's economic...

(from page 1)

spending, saying that requires increased tax revenues and relies on policy reforms that create a system that is easy to comply with and enforce, with minimal exemptions.

The IMF also suggested the issuance of new domestic licenses should be carefully controlled to allow supervision capacity to develop and to minimize risks.

According to the statement, the IMF pledged to continue to work with the authorities on macroeconomic policies and reforms and intensify technical assistance and training in Myanmar.

The statement's growth forecast of 8.5 per cent for Myanmar is higher than the 7.8 per cent IMF forecast at the 2014 Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook press briefing in April.

Tatkon Township tops two...

(from page 1)

Through the project financed by the World Bank with $80 million, all village tracts in a selected township will be able to roll out their own small infrastructure projects following community level consultations.

"Tatkon Township was chosen to be covered by the project as it has not yet received foreign aid before", said the official.

Only four of 49 village tracts have access to electricity while urban wards have power supplies, he added.

One of eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar's capital, Tatkon Township has six urban wards and 176 villages where a population of nearly 300,000 resides, mainly depending on agriculture for their livelihood.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 9/2014)
6th Waning of Nayon, 1376 M.E
(18 June, 2014)

Resignation of deputy minister allowed

Under the Sub-section (b) of the Section 235 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Sub-Section (b) of the Section 68 of the Union Government Law, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint has been allowed to resign of his own volition.

Sd/ **Thein Sein**
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 10/2014)
6th Waning of Nayon, 1376 M.E
(18 June, 2014)

Appointment of deputy minister

Under the Sub-sections (a) and (d) of the Section 234 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Para (9), Sub-section (b) of the Section 16 of the Union Government Law, Deputy Minister at the President Office (1) U Thant Shin has been appointed as Deputy Minister for Education.

Sd/ **Thein Sein**
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 11/2014)
6th Waning of Nayon, 1376 M.E
(18 June, 2014)

Former military duties assigned

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn was assigned to former military duties.

*Sd/***Thein Sein**
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Government
Notification (No. 40/2014)
6th Waning of Nayon, 1376 ME
(18 June, 2014)

Presidential Advisory Group extended and duty assigned to new members

The Presidential Advisory Groups appointed under notification No. 1/2011 of the Union Government dated 19-4-2011 were extended and those in the list were assigned duties as leaders and members in various advisory groups of the President.

(1)	Thura U Myint Maung (Retired minister)	Leader Religious Affairs Advisory Group
(2)	U Sein Win Aung (Retired ambassador)	Member Religious Affairs Advisory Group
(3)	Dr Nu Nu Thar (Retired Medical Superintendent)	Health Advisory Group
(4)	Dr Yin Yin Nwe (Retired UNICEF staff)	Leader Education Advisory Group
(5)	Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing	Member Education Advisory Group
(6)	U Tin Htut Oo (Retired Director-General)	Member Economic Advisory Group

By order,
Zaw Than Thinn
Secretary
Union Government

Outstanding athletes with disabilities honoured in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 18 June—Mandalay Region Social Welfare Department and Myanmar Disabilities Association (Mandalay) jointly organized the ceremony to honour the athletes with disabilities who secured prizes in the SEA Paralympics Games at the city hall in Mandalay on Tuesday.

Mandalay Region minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Zan and Chairman of the association U Myat Oo extended greetings.

Advocate-General of the region U Ye Aung Myint and officials presented equipment for the disabled and prizes to the outstanding athletes in the SEA Paralympics Games. The chairman and executives gave cash assistance and stationery to the students with disabilities.

The Mandalay Region government, the Mandalay City Development Committee and wellwishers donated cash to the fund of the association through officials.

Thiha Ko ko (Mandalay)

Township authorities manage repaving road in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 18 June—Under the instructions of Yangon Region Development Affairs Committee, officials and staff from the Engineering Section of Hlinethaya Township are making strenuous efforts for timely completion of upgrading the 3,300 foot long Bo Aung Kyaw Road in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon to a concrete one starting on Monday.

Those also made a sanitation tasks in drains for proper flow of water in front of the No. 22 Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in the township on Tuesday.—*Min Htet Paing (Hlinethaya)*

Modern farming technology introduced to farmers in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—Head of Ottara District Agriculture Department U Win Oo urged the farmers to grow special high-yield Palethwe hybrid paddy strain through good agricultural pattern on Sunday at the educative talks at the hall of Aungthukha village in Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

He also clarified use of quality paddy strain, systematic use of fertilizers, irrigation facilities and production process of Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds in Aungthukha Village.

Departmental officials replied to queries raised by the farmers and fulfilled their needs.

Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)

Action taken against illegal walkie-talkie owner

MANDALAY, 18 June—A traffic police squad found a vehicle that stopped the roadside to the Mandalay Region government office on 64th street between 24th and 25th streets in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay on 16 June midnight.

With the assistance of the Mandalay City Development Committee, the police brought the car to the police station by crane.

They found one Icon IC-V83 walkie-talkie, battery charger, one passport for Myanmar-China border, one green jerkin, one travel bag and other equipment on board. According to the investigation, the vehicle was owned by U Naing Htwe, 46 of 22nd street between 63rd and 64th streets in Maha Zeyabon Ward in Aungmyethazan Township. After observing the gold mining industries in Kawlin, he stopped the vehicle there due to the engine failure. The walkie-talkie was used at his shop in addition to three other machines. The devices can be used in 400 feet radius area.

Aungmyethazan Township police station opened a file of lawsuit against U Cho Maung (a) U Naing Htwe under the section 67 of the Communications Law.

Maung Pyi Thu

Stake driven for self-reliant rural health branch

MINGIN, 18 June—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of the rural health branch was held in Thinbaw Village of Mingin Township in Sagaing Region recently.

Townselders and local authorities drove stakes for the building.

Wellwisher U Win Aung, wife Daw Sein Aye and family donated the 30 feet square brick noggin building. The abbot of the monastery and two wellwishers donated the land plot for the rural health branch.

Chindwin Thar (IPRD)

BEMS in Kawkareik Tsp upgraded as high school branch

KAWKAREIK, 18 June—The Basic Education Middle School in Dawphya Village in Kawkareik Township of Kayin State was upgraded to a high school branch on Tuesday, said Headmistress Daw Nyo Nyo Oo at the inaugurating ceremony of the school.

She also explained the condition of the school to the attendees before the Deputy Commissioner of Kawkareik District and officials formally opened the school.

Soe Htet Aung (IPRD)

Public service librarian course conducted in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June — In order to realize the process and management of a library, the Information and Public Relations Department conducted public service librarian course at the hall of the monastery in Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area recently.

The course was also aimed at successfully upgrading the village's library to a modern one.

Officials and staff from Township IPRD gave lectures on the duty and functions of librarian and compilation of catalogue to 20 trainees.

According to the locals, the old library namely "Lawka Kyemon" (the world's mirror) was established by Sayadaw U Parama, Abbot of Hman Monastery in Ward-2 of the township.

Ma Theint (Pobbathiri)

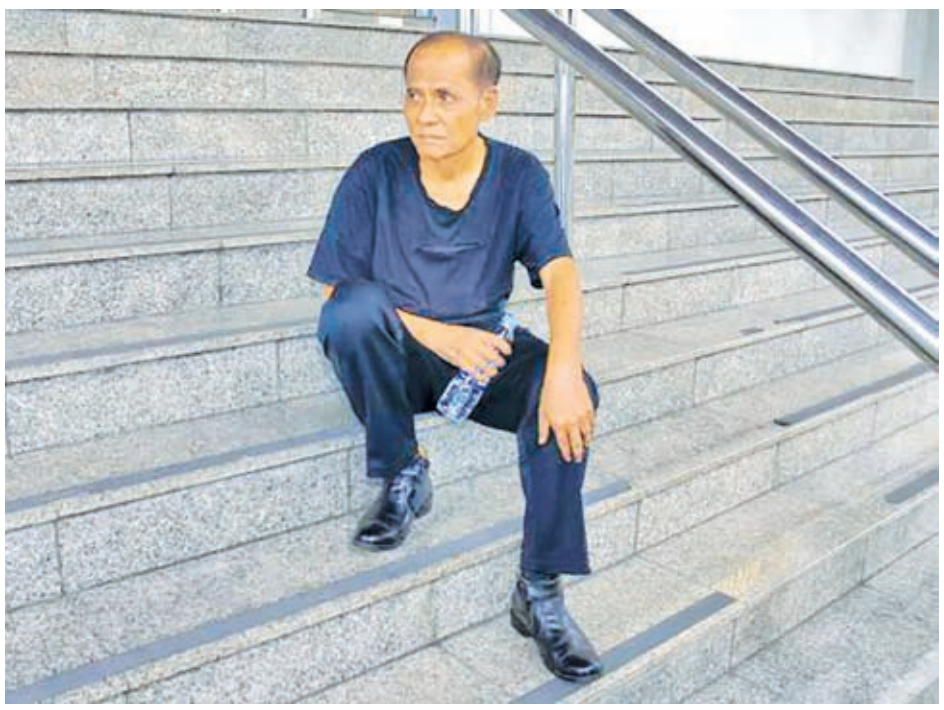
Staff of Natmauk Township Information and Public Relations Department change old books with 5/2014 books and publications at mini book corners in public places in Natmauk Township of Magway Region recently.
NATMAUK TOWNSHIP IPRD

MEB presents cash assistance, stationery to students in Sagaing

MONYWA, 18 June—A ceremony to provide cash assistance and stationery to offspring of staff was held at the Myanma Economic Bank in Sagaing of Sagaing Region in early June.

General Manager U Than Lwin Oo of MEB (Head Office), Sagaing Region Manager U Aye Kyaw and officials presented 258 dozens of copy books, 108 dozens of ball-pens, 108 dozens of pencil and 22 dozens of eraser and K420,000 to students and 14 staff.—*District IPRD*

Thai junta unfazed by serial hunger striker's "win-win" fast



Chalad Vorachat, a retired navy lieutenant and serial hunger striker, sits on the steps of the criminal court in Bangkok on 10 June, 2014.—Reuters

Bangkok, 18 June — For more than three decades, Chalad Vorachat's hunger strikes have drawn crowds. Once, he even helped topple a government.

But this time, the veteran Thai anti-coup campaigner says he's contemplating a very different outcome: wasting away unnoticed on a Bangkok pavement.

He wants to see Thailand's military, which took power in a bloodless coup last month, set a date for a new general election to usher in a democratically elected government.

"If it doesn't happen soon, then I'll have to sacrifice my life," he told *Reuters* outside Bangkok's parliament building, where he sits beside plastic wreaths symbolizing the death of democracy and subsists on honey and water.

"If I don't die, then I win. And if I do die, I also win," he said, a smile flickering across his face.

Chalad, 71, embodies the vicious cycle that is Thai politics. Since 1980, the former Democrat Party lawmaker has refused food as a form of protest against everything from oil prices to constitutional amendments. He was thrust into notoriety in 1992, when a hunger strike against then-Prime Minister General Suchinda Kraprayoon, who took power following a coup, helped inspire bloody protests that killed at least 52 people and resulted in Suchinda's downfall.

Since then, he's carried out hunger strikes in 1994, 2000 and 2006 aimed at ending the political meddling of the military, which has carried out 12 successful coups since the abolition of absolute monarchy in 1932.

The former navy lieutenant last week filed criminal charges against junta leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha and other officers for insulting the monarchy and treason. The case was promptly dismissed.

Thai politics has long been tumultuous, and the past decade has seen society sharply divided over the influence of Thaksin Shinawatra, a former telecoms tycoon elected prime minister twice on massive rural support garnered through populist giveaways.

He was overthrown in a 2006 coup. His sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, became prime minister in 2011, but months of protests that began in November helped trigger her downfall in May.

While Chalad could once count on mass support, much of it from Bangkok's middle classes, his latest protest is happening in near anonymity. Reclining on the street dressed in black pajamas, Chalad was accompanied by just two supporters.

Reuters

Manila seeks early tribunal ruling over sea dispute with China

Manila, 18 June — The Philippines said it will ask an international arbitration tribunal to make a speedy ruling on its dispute with China over exploiting waters in the South China Sea after Beijing refused to take part in the proceedings.

Foreign Minister Albert del Rosario said Manila might also ask the United Nations arbitral court in The Hague to issue an order that would halt Chinese reclamation work in contested waters, such as on Johnson South Reef and Fiery Cross Reef in the Spratly archipelago.

Manila is seeking confirmation at the tribunal of its right to exploit waters in its 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone as allowed under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Earlier this month, China rejected a notice from the tribunal which gave Beijing until 15 December to reply to the first international case filed against it over the potentially energy-rich waters.

"Because China is not participating and because the situation is getting worse every day in the South China Sea, I am asking our (legal team) in the US if we can present a request to the tribunal to hasten the process," del Rosario said late on Tuesday.

China has said all along it will not participate, preferring a bilateral approach to resolving conflicts. In March, Manila made its formal submission to the tribunal.

China claims 90 percent of the South China Sea. The Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan also have claims over the waters, where about $5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year.

Del Rosario said China was rushing construction activity before the tribunal handed down its ruling, adding the Philippines could ask the tribunal to order China to halt such work in disputed areas while Manila's complaint was being heard.

Legal experts, however, have said any decision from the tribunal would be effectively unenforceable as there was no body under UNCLOS to police such rulings.

Del Rosario has called for a moratorium on all activities in the South China Sea that could escalate tensions, proposing more dialogue between China and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).—*Reuters*

US condemns Sri Lanka violence, says minorities must be protected

Washington, 18 June — The United States on Tuesday condemned religious violence in Sri Lanka and called on the government to fulfill its obligations to protect religious minorities.

At least three Muslims were killed and 75 people seriously injured in violence that erupted on Sunday between Buddhists and Muslims in southern Sri Lankan coastal towns, officials and residents said.

It was part of an increasing pattern of violence against Muslims in Sri Lanka since 2012.

US State Department spokeswoman Jan Psaki said Washington was concerned by inflammatory rhetoric that had incited the violence.

"We urge the Sri Lankan government to fulfill its obligations to protect religious minorities, including protecting all citizens and places of worship, conducting a full investigation into the violence and bringing those responsible to justice," she told a regular briefing.

"We also urge all sides to refrain from violence, exercise restraint and respect the rule of law."

Amnesty International said it was the worst outbreak of communal violence in Sri Lanka in years and there was a real risk of it spreading further. The rights group said the Sri Lankan authorities must act immediately to end the anti-Muslim violence and to rein in groups targeting religious minorities.

"Eyewitness reports that police have stood by and refused to intervene in the violence are very troubling and must also be investigated," Amnesty's Deputy Asia Pacific Director David Griffiths said in a statement.

"Security forces have a duty to protect the right of everyone to life and security regardless of their beliefs or identity."

A police vehicle sprays water from a water cannon on a burnt shop after a clash between Buddhists and Muslims in Aluthgama on 16 June, 2014.—Reuters

The clashes erupted on Sunday in Aluthgama and Beruwela, two Muslim-majority towns on the Sinhalese-dominated southern coast, during a protest march led by the hardline Buddhist group Bodu Bala Sena (BBS), or "Buddhist power force".

Many independent analysts say well-coordinated violence against Muslims and Christians appears to have tacit state backing as those involved in previous attacks have yet to be punished. The government denies any collusion.

A *Reuters* team in Aluthgama and Beruwela witnessed an uneasy calm and a heavy police presence, with Muslims worried for their safety, many of them sitting on the road in front of their ruined houses. *Reuters* reporters counted 16 houses gutted by fire.

Many residents said the police directly and indirectly helped the BBS organization. Police rejected the claim.

The BBS has said its members came under attack when they were protesting peacefully against an assault on a Buddhist monk by a Muslim youth three days earlier.

The Colombo government has been strongly criticized by the United States and other Western governments and the United Nations for alleged rights abuses in crushing the Tamil Tigers in a 2009 offensive. The United Nations is launching an investigation into alleged war crimes. The government has said it will not cooperate with the inquiry and it has rejected Western calls for demilitarization in the former conflict zone.—*Reuters*

Maliki stands with Sunni leaders, appealing for Iraqi unity

BAGHDAD, 18 June — Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki broadcast a joint appeal for national unity on Tuesday with bitter Sunni critics of his Shi'ite-led government — a move that may help him win US help against rampant Islamists threatening Baghdad.

Just hours after Maliki's Shi'ite allies had angrily vowed to boycott any cooperation with the biggest Sunni party and his government had accused Sunni neighbour Saudi Arabia of backing "genocide", the premier's visibly uncomfortable televised appearance may reflect US impatience with its Baghdad protege.

In a rerun of previous failed efforts at bridging sectarian and ethnic divisions, Shi'ite, Sunni and Kurdish leaders met behind closed doors and then stood frostily before cameras as Maliki's Shi'ite predecessor Ibrahim al-Jaafari read a statement denouncing "terrorist powers" and supporting Iraqi sovereignty.

US President Barack Obama is considering military options to push back al-Qaeda splinter group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which has swept the Sunni north of the country over the past week as the Shi'ite-led army has crumbled.

But in return Washington want Maliki to do more to address the widespread sense of political exclusion among minority Sunnis which ISIL has exploited to win support among tribal leaders and former followers of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein.

Tribal fighters hold up their weapons as they shout slogans in support of Iraqi security forces in Kerbala on 17 June, 2014.—REUTERS

"No terrorist powers represent any sect or religion," Jaafari said in the address, which included a broad promise of "reviewing the previous course" of Iraqi politics. Afterwards, most of the leaders, including Maliki and Usama al-Nujaifi, the leading Sunni present, walked away from each other in silence.

Earlier, Maliki's government accused Saudi Arabia, the main Sunni power, of backing ISIL - something Riyadh denies.

"We hold them responsible for supporting these groups financially and morally and for its outcome — which includes crimes that may qualify as genocide: the spilling of Iraqi blood, the destruction of Iraqi state institutions and historic and religious sites," a government statement said. Maliki has blamed Saudi Arabia for supporting militants in the past, but the language was unprecedented. On Monday, Riyadh blamed sectarianism in Baghdad for fuelling the violence.

Maliki, who has been buoyed by a call by Iraq's senior Shi'ite cleric for citizens to rally to the armed forces, dismissed four generals for abandoning the big northern city of Mosul a week ago and said they would face court martial.

Scores were killed on Tuesday in a battle for another provincial capital, close to Baghdad, and fighting shut Iraq's biggest refinery at Baiji, hitting fuel and power supplies.

Government forces said they repelled an overnight attempt by insurgents to seize Baquba, capital of Diyala. Some residents and officials said scores of prisoners from the local jail were killed. There were conflicting accounts of how they had died.

ISIL fighters who aim to build a Muslim caliphate across the Iraqi-Syrian frontier launched their revolt by seizing Mosul and swept through the Tigris valley towards Baghdad.

The fighters, who consider all Shi'ites to be heretics deserving death, pride themselves on their brutality and have boasted of massacring hundreds of troops who surrendered.

Western countries, including the United States, have urged Maliki to reach out to Sunnis to rebuild national unity as the only way of preventing the disintegration of Iraq. "There is a real risk of further sectarian violence on a massive scale, within Iraq and beyond its borders," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. "I have been urging Iraqi government leaders including Prime Minister al-Maliki to reach out for an inclusive dialogue and solution of this issue."

But the prime minister, in power for eight years and effective winner of a parliamentary election two months ago, seems instead to be relying more heavily than ever on his own sect, who form a majority long oppressed under Saddam.

Though the joint statement late on Tuesday said only those directly employed by the Iraqi state should bear arms, thousands of Shi'ite militiamen have been mobilised to defend Baghdad. The sudden advance by Sunni insurgents has the potential to scramble alliances in the Middle East, with the United States and Iran both saying they could cooperate against a common enemy, all but unprecedented since the 1979 Iranian revolution. Iran, the leading Shi'ite power, has close ties to Maliki and the Shi'ite parties that have won elections since US forces toppled Saddam in 2003. Although both Washington and Teheran are allies of Baghdad, they have not cooperated in the past but diplomats discussed Iraq briefly on Monday in Vienna.—*Reuters*

Sunni militants control "75 percent" of Iraq's Baiji refinery

BAGHDAD, 18 June — Sunni militants have taken control of most of Iraq's largest oil refinery, located in Baiji in northern Iraq, an official at the refinery said on Wednesday.

"The militants have managed to break in to the refinery. Now they are in control of the production units, administration building and four watch towers. This is 75 percent of the refinery," an official speaking from inside the refinery said.

He says clashes continue near the main control room with security forces.—*Reuters*

Israel re-arrests former Palestinian prisoners in hunt for teens

JERUSALEM, 18 June — Israel re-arrested 51 Palestinians freed in a 2011 prisoner swap deal, the army said on Wednesday, in the sixth day of a hunt for three missing teenagers believed abducted in the occupied West Bank.

Israel accuses Hamas Islamists of kidnapping the seminary students, who disappeared on Thursday while hitchhiking from a Jewish settlement. There has been no word from them since, nor any public claim of responsibility or ransom demands — including by Hamas, though neither has it denied involvement.

A military spokesman said more than 65 Palestinians were detained overnight, including 51 who were part of a group of 1,027 prisoners released by Israel three years ago in return for soldier Gilad Shalit, who was seized by Hamas in 2006.

"We have two efforts ongoing in parallel. First is to bring back the boys, and the second is to take a toll on Hamas for its actions," spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Lerner said.

Palestinians said the majority of those re-arrested were affiliated with Hamas, and accused Israel of reneging on the prisoner-swap deal, which was partially brokered by Egypt.

"What Israel is doing has nothing to do with security, but is a policy of revenge," said Qadoura Fares, chairman of the Palestinian Prisoners Club, which advocates on behalf of Palestinians in Israeli custody.

An Egyptian official said that Cairo, which is in contact with Hamas and other Palestinian factions, was helping Israel gather information that might lead to the missing teenagers.

But the official, who spoke to *Reuters* on condition of anonymity, denied Israeli and Palestinian media reports that Egyptian mediation was already under way to return the boys.

Israeli soldiers take part in an operation to locate three Israeli teens in the West Bank City of Hebron on 17 June, 2014.—REUTERS

"There is a flow of information (between Egypt and Israel), but we are still short of information, so there is no negotiation," the official said.

Israel wants to make clear to Hamas it will pay a high price for the abduction. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was swift to praise the latest arrests, which brought the total number of those detained to 240.

"The operation tonight in which Hamas terrorists were arrested, including some who had been freed in exchange for the return of Gilad Shalit, is a component with an important message in a series of many actions," he said in a statement.

Reuters

Obama moves to protect vast Pacific Ocean areas

*US President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama arrive via Marine One helicopter at the White House in Washington on 16 June, 2014.—*Reuters

Washington, 18 June — The White House on Tuesday unveiled efforts to expand protection of vast areas of the Pacific Ocean controlled by the United States from over fishing and environmental damage.

President Barack Obama's proposal, to go into effect later this year, would create a vast marine sanctuary and is part of an effort to safeguard more ocean territory, which is under threat from several factors, including overfishing and climate change, the White House said.

The announcement, part of the president's national ocean policy, coincided with an oceans conference held by the State Department on Monday and Tuesday at which Secretary of State John Kerry called for a global effort to protect the world's oceans, which cover more than 70 percent of the planet.

"We've already shown that when we work together, we can protect our oceans for future generations. So let's redouble our efforts," Obama said in a statement.

The president's plan would expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument from its current area of 87,000 square miles and would affect seven islands and atolls controlled by the United States.

The coral reefs and marine ecosystems of this section of the south-central Pacific Ocean are some of the most vulnerable areas to climate change and ocean acidification, the White House said.

The president will also direct federal agencies to create a comprehensive program to prevent illegal fishing and stop illegally caught fish from being sold, a move designed to spur the market for sustainably caught seafood.

"Because our seafood travels through an increasingly long, complex and non-transparent supply chain, there are numerous opportunities for seafood fraud to occur and illegally caught fish to enter the US market," said Beth Lowell, campaign director at the ocean conservation group Oceana.

Obama also announced measures to protect coastal communities vulnerable to climate change, including an offer of $102 million in grants to restore flood plains and natural barriers along the Atlantic coast, and released a paper detailing the impacts of ocean acidification.

The measures will be carried out by executive order, and do not require congressional approval.

A comment period over the summer will allow the Commerce and Interior departments to hear objections and fine-tune the plan.

In addition to the White House measures, actor and environmental activist Leonardo DiCaprio announced at the oceans conference his foundation will pledge $7 million to support ocean conservation programs over the next two years.

DiCaprio previously gave Oceana a $3 million grant to back their efforts to support sharks, marine mammals, and key ocean habitat in the Eastern Pacific.

Reuters

Benghazi suspect was planning more attacks on Americans

United Nations, 18 June — The United States told the UN Security Council that a suspected ringleader of the deadly 2012 attack on its diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya had been planning to target more Americans and that justified his capture.

In a letter obtained by Reuters on Wednesday, US Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, notified the council of the capture on Sunday of Ahmed Abu Khatallah by US special forces in Libya after an investigation identified him as a key figure in the 2012 attack that killed four Americans.

"The investigation also determined that he continued to plan further armed attacks against US persons," Power wrote in the letter dated on Tuesday.

"The measures we have taken to capture Abu Khatallah in Libya were therefore necessary to prevent such armed attacks, and were taken in accordance with the United States' inherent right of self-defense," she wrote.

Power said the United States was reporting the capture of Khatallah to the Security Council under Article 51 of the UN Charter, which requires that the body be notified immediately of measures taken by states in self-defense against armed attack.—*Reuters*

Cameron may fail to stop Junker getting EU job, ex-UK PM Major says

London, 18 June — British Prime Minister David Cameron may fail to stop Jean-Claude Juncker from becoming European Commission president but Britain will be able renegotiate a new settlement with the European Union, former Prime Minister John Major has said.

Cameron, who wants to renegotiate Britain's ties with the EU and hold an in-out referendum on membership by the end of 2017, has publicly opposed Juncker, the former prime minister of Luxembourg.

Some other European leaders privately share Cameron's reservations about appointing Juncker but Cameron has risked irritating German Chancellor Angela Merkel with his implacable opposition to Junker.

"I do not think he is the right candidate but it is conceivable, for the wrong reasons, that Europe might elect the wrong candidate," Major, who served as a Conservative prime minister from 1990 to 1997, told the BBC in an interview aired on Wednesday.

*Candidate for the European Commission presidency Jean-Claude Juncker arrives at an European People's Party (EPP) meeting in Brussels, ahead of an informal dinner of EU leaders on 27 May, 2014.—*Reuters

"If that is so, the way Europe often works is if it has done something that is very much not to the interests of a particular country they often seek both subliminally and publicly to make that right in some another way."

Major said he thought Cameron would be able to secure a new settlement with the European Union and that British voters would then vote to stay in the European Union.

"The question is: Can we get a satisfactory negotiation along the lines that Britain has been talking about and my answer to that is categorically 'Yes'."

Disagreements over Britain's relations with Europe helped bring down Major's predecessor Margaret Thatcher in 1990, and convulsed the Conservatives throughout Major's time in office when he faced repeated rebellions by Eurosceptic party members.

Reuters

Putin, Poroshenko discuss possible ceasefire in east Ukraine

*An armed pro-Russian separatist with attached orange ribbon of St George, a symbol widely associated with pro-Russian protests in Ukraine, stands guard at a road check point outside the eastern Ukrainian city of Luhansk on 8 June, 2014.—*Reuters

Moscow, 18 June — Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart, Petro Poroshenko, discussed a possible ceasefire in eastern Ukraine and the deaths of two Russian journalists there in a late night telephone conversation, the Kremlin said. The conversation "touched on the theme of a possible ceasefire in the area of military action in southeastern Ukraine", the Kremlin said in a statement.

It also said Putin had expressed his concern over the deaths of two Russian state television journalists, who were killed in shelling in clashes between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists near the eastern city of Luhansk.

Poroshenko expressed his condolences and assured Putin there would be an investigation and measures would be taken to protect journalists.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 19 June, 2014

Fundamentals needed for Myanmar media industry

By *Aung Khin*

The international community has been full of praise for democratic reform in Myanmar after the country's 2010 General Elections and the newly elected government was born in 2011. And since then, some foreign-based news organizations have rushed to forge cooperation with their local counterparts.

And although foreign news media have understood the situation for Myanmar's media industry, they have invested or support with money, technology and training. But the matter of human resource development is still a problem in this industry. From reporting to printing and marketing, Myanmar media groups are facing a lack of experience and expertise compared to their foreign counterparts.

What leaves us with a lack of good media skills? While media groups in neighbouring countries were enjoying support ranging from information and communication technology to journalism training, Myanmar journalists were still trying to present the news in tactical ways to avoid rules and regulations of the press scrutiny board. This meant there was a lack of motivation for young journalists to study journalism skills.

When working with foreign editors, they give suggestions and make corrections in the news presentation style of local newspapers, but often they also need multiple sources and background information to meet international norms for news stories.

The situations here is very different. Many news sources are very often reluctant to comment on sensitive stories except to push their own interests or propaganda. Moreover, most of the local media cannot set up database system to get facts and figures as it is very expensive.

News media should have efficient tax exemptions to bring in essential facilities. Journalists should acquire effective training in journalism skills and have codes of ethics to avoid lawsuits from both the authorities and business firms. Only when the flow of information is smooth, will journalists have more confidence in their profession. Myanmar people are not inferior to foreigners in various sectors, but they do need support such as research, training, encouragement and so on to preserve the dignity of the profession!

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Knowledge about labour affairs shared to employers, employees

Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint speaking at the talk on labour affairs at Yangon Industrial Zone.—MNA

YANGON, 18 June—The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security held a talk on labour affairs at the hall in Yangon Industrial Zone in Yangon on Monday with the aim of enabling the employers and employees to abide by the labour laws and declining labour disputes between the employers and employees.

Entrepreneurs need to consider the corporate social responsibilities (CSR) without focusing on the benefit in the production, said Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint at the talk.

As the minimum wages law and rules have been issued, the national committee and the region/state committees were formed for the minimum wages. Officials held discussions on the designation of minimum wages in regions and states. All are to take care of too high and too low amount of the minimum wages, he said.

Departmental officials held talks about the EC treaty and labour organization laws, matters related to the labour laws, the social security law and the solving labour disputes. It was attended by 127 representatives of employers and employees from Mingaladon, Yangon and Pyinmabin industrial zones.—*MNA*

Myanmar, India to establish Myanmar Institute of Information Technology in Mandalay

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo lays cornerstone for construction of MIIT in Mandalay.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—The cornerstone laying ceremony for the six-storey building of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology was held on 73rd Street between Ngushwewah and Khaing shwewah streets in Chanmyathazi Township on Tuesday.

The university jointly established by Myanmar and India is aimed at conducting education and research works on information technology according to the cooperation agreement between the two countries, said Dr Ko Ko Oo, Union Minister for Science and Technology on the occasion.

The university will turn out youth technicians for establishment of more research and educational institutions. Faculty members from India will give lectures to the students at the university for five years with teaching aid from India.

After that, the Union minister and the Indian Ambassador and part held a meeting on opening of the MIIT and development of ICT in Myanmar at the Mandalay University of Computer Studies.

MNA

Trade and Investment Framework Agreement discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 18 June—Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Le Le Thein, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan, Deputy Minister for NPED Dr San Lwin and officials held a meeting with Deputy Assistant of Trade Representative Mr Karl Ehlers and party of the US at the Ministry of NPED in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They focused on promotion of trade and investment of the US in Myanmar for implementation of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the United State-TIFA.

They discussed the Myanmar trade policies concerning the WTO Trade Policy Review, import licence issues, drawing the intellectual property rights law, promotion and easing investment for cooperation opportunities between the two countries and extension of ASEAN and E3 affairs between the ASEAN and the US.—*MNA*

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (18-6-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K659,500 per tical: Selling K660,100

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K659,500 per tical: Selling K660,100

FE RATE

USD Buying	K977 -	Selling K982 (-)
SGD Buying	K777 -	Selling K784
Euro Buying	K1315 -	Selling K1330

LOCAL NEWS

Yadanabon Zoo allows visitors by car, motorcycle

MANDALAY, 18 June—The Wildlife Conservation Division of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry leased Yadanabon Zoological Gardens to Htoo Company through a long-term contract.

The company bought new animals from foreign countries and exchanged animals with Yangon Zoo and Nay Pyi Taw Safari Park.

Over 100 species of animals are being kept at the Yadanabon Zoo. Staff of the zoo performed snake charming and elephant entertainment on Saturdays and Sundays in addition to Fullmoon days.

As special programme, the zoo allows private cars and motorcycles to visit there from 5 pm to 6.30 pm by collecting K1,000 per adult, K500 per child, K3,000 per car and K1,000 per motorcycle.—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

Cash donated to education and health foundation in Dala

DALA, 18 June—U Moe Hsan and wife Daw Ohnma Saw Win of Hello fuel station in Kamakasit Ward of Dala, Yangon Region, on Sunday donated K1 million for the Dala Township Education and Health Foundation.

Chairman U Tin Kyi and treasurer U Than Win (Goldsmith) of the foundation accepted the cash donation.

The foundation focuses on providing assistance to the youths to have opportunities to learning the higher education and giving health care services to the poor families. The foundation invites wellwishers for the donations and they can dial 09-73116435, 0973049298 and 09-254044505.

Ye Htet Zaw

Kyunhla's schools resume regular school hours

KYUNHLA, 18 June—Basic education schools changed school hours in recent weeks of June in Kyunhla Township of Sagaing Region due to overheat temperature.

As of 17 June, the schools resume their regular school hours, according to an official.

In line with the instruction of the region government, the schools changed their school hours from 6 am to 11.30 am daily as of 9 June.

Myo Win Nyo

New express mini bus line emerges on Pakokku-Gangaw route

PAKOKKU, 18 June—Phyo Myitta the express mini bus line operates its transport service for the Pakokku-Gangaw route as of 12 June.

"Our bus line runs along Pakokku-Pale-Mintaingbin-Kyaw-Yemyetni-Gangaw route as part of efforts to give transport services to the people for their convenience. In the rainy season, number of passengers decline on the route. After the rainy season, we will operate the line with two buses regularly. In recent days, the heavy rain hit in Pontaung and Ponnya region, causing blocks on the route. Kyaw Creek and Yaw Creek also block vehicles that ran from Mandalay, Monywa, Pakokku and other regions. Now, we cannot enter Pakokku due to overflow of creeks," said an official of the bus terminal.

The new bus line collects K10,000 per passenger and it leaves Pakokku at 5.30 am and Gangaw at 6 am daily.—*Aung (Mandalay University)*

TODAY'S MYANMAR NEWS SITES

Agricultural loans disbursed to farmers in Wakema Tsp

WAKEMA, 18 June—Myanma Agricultural Development Bank in Wakema Township of Ayeyawady Region disbursed agricultural loans to the local farmers as of 11 June.

The bank delivered K53 million for 530 acres of farmlands to farmers from Paydaw Village-tract.

This year, the bank plans to disburse K16 billion for 160,640 acres of monsoon paddy in 128 village-tracts in the township in time.—*Hlwan Thiha (IPRD)*

Seeds of Palethwe hybrid paddy sawn in Mawlamyinegyun Tsp

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 18 June—The seed sowing ceremony took place at the 2-acre farmland of U Hla Tun in Kanyinkhe Village of Mawlamyinegyun Township in Ayeyawady Region on Tuesday.

Staff of District and Township Agriculture Departments demonstrated sowing of Palethwe paddy seeds, attended by 250 farmers from four village-tracts.

Officials of the department explained cultivation of Palethwe paddy strain to increase family income. A local farmer recounted experience of growing Palethwe paddy strain. Later, officials presented Palethwe paddy seeds to three local farmers.

Mawgyun Myint Aung

Chlorine gas-like chemicals likely used in Syrian conflict: watchdog

AMSTERDAM, 18 June — Chemical weapons inspectors who came under attack while investigating claims of chlorine gas attacks in Syria last month found information suggesting that similar chemicals had indeed been used, the global chemical weapons watchdog said on Tuesday.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which is overseeing the destruction of Syria's chemical stockpile, said inspectors had information pointing to chlorine gas-like chemicals having been used despite having been forced to cut short their mission after the attack.

"Despite the grave incident which prevented the fact-finding mission from conducting an important field visit, the team was able to prepare a preliminary report," the organization said in a statement.

*A Free Syrian Army medical group conducts a training on how to cope with chemical weapons attacks in Aleppo on 25 Dec, 2013. —*REUTERS

"The information that was available to the fact-finding mission lends credence to the view that toxic chemicals — most likely pulmonary irritating agents, such as chlorine — have been used in Syria," the body said.

The inspectors, from a joint OPCW/United Nations fact-finding team, were travelling to the central province of Hama to investigate allegations of illegal chlorine attacks by government forces when their convoy came under attack.

No team members were injured in the attack, which the Syrian government blamed on rebel fighters.

President Bashar al-Assad, whose forces have been battling rebels trying to unseat him for more than three years, agreed last year to hand over Syria's entire chemical weapons stockpile after hundreds of people were killed in a sarin gas attack near Damascus.—*Reuters*

Foreign passenger arrivals in Japan top 5 m in January-May

TOKYO, 18 June — The number of foreign passenger arrivals in Japan reached 5.20 million in the first five months of the year, with a new annual record expected following the previous year's record of 10.36 million, a government estimate showed on Wednesday.

The figure was up 28.4 percent, or 1.15 million, from the January-May period last year, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization.

The increase was attributed to expanded flight capacity, relaxed visa requirements for Southeast Asian tourists and enhanced collaboration with overseas tour operators, the JNTO said. The organization is expecting the record level of foreign passenger arrivals to continue over June, led by visitors from China, Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

The flow of visitors from South Korea, the biggest source last year, is expected to remain slow amid a national mood of restraint following the sinking of the Sewol ferry in April, which left more than 300 people dead or missing.

Kyodo News

At least 13 killed in bombing of Nigeria World Cup viewing venue

DAMATURU, 18 June — At least 13 people including young children were killed when a bomb tore through a venue in northeast Nigeria where fans had gathered to watch a World Cup soccer match, witnesses said.

Some people at the scene told *Reuters* an attacker dropped a device in front of the venue on Tuesday night in the town of Damaturu and ran off, while others said it was the work of a suicide bomber.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast, but Damaturu and the surrounding Yobe state are at the heart of a five-year-old insurgency by Islamist group Boko Haram.

The group was blamed for an attack on another venue screening soccer matches in the northeastern state of Adamawa that killed at least 14 people and wounded 12.

A *Reuters* reporter at Damaturu's General Sani Abacha Specialist Hospital counted 13 people dead — including small children — and at least 20 wounded.

The Nigerian government has advised people to avoid gathering in public to watch the World Cup, concerned about potential attacks.

Many fans in soccer-mad Africa rely on informal venues — often open-sided structures with televisions set up in shops and side streets — to watch live coverage of the sport.

Boko Haram — whose name roughly translates as "Western education is sinful" — has declared war on all signs of what it sees as corrupting Western influence.

The group has killed thousands in its push to carve out an Islamic state in religiously-mixed Nigeria. —*Reuters*

South Africa's Zuma under pressure in major policy speech

CAPE TOWN, 18 June — South African President Jacob Zuma delivers the first State of the Nation address of his second term on Tuesday, under pressure to outline plans for reviving growth and creating much-needed jobs in Africa's most advanced economy.

A double blow from ratings agencies last week underlined the precarious state of the economy, which contracted in the first quarter. South Africans will also be closely watching Zuma himself after he was hospitalized this month with fatigue.

The 72-year-old was quickly discharged after "routine tests", his office said a week ago. However, he handed over the reins to his deputy Cyril Ramaphosa for five days to give himself time to recover from the rigors of preparing for the May 7 election.

Zuma's African National Congress (ANC) won a 62 percent majority in the vote, the fifth since the end of apartheid in 1994, but the ruling party has had little to cheer about since the result.

A five-month strike in the platinum mines is dragging the economy towards recession and the impact on broader growth and government finances prompted Fitch to put South Africa on a negative outlook and Standard & Poor's to cut its credit rating on Friday.

Hitherto, Zuma had relied almost exclusively on a National Development Plan (NDP) drawn up in his first term as his broad blueprint for promoting long-term growth.

Analysts said the president also needed to address the deep mistrust that exists between the government, unions and the private sector if the NDP — which requires the cooperation of all three entities — is to have any chance of success.

"Does the government want to bargain with the business sector and other interests to chart a new path for the economy, or does it believe it can fix its problems on its own?" political analyst Stephen Friedman wrote in the *Business Day* newspaper on Tuesday.

Standard & Poor's downgrade means South Africa could even lose its coveted investment grade credit rating if growth fails to pick up. S&P's outlook is stable for now, indicating it is not looking at cutting its rating again soon but investors will want reassurance that the government is committed to steering the economy back to health.

The economy has been further strained by a cold snap at the start of the southern hemisphere winter and outages at some power generation units, which led to temporary rolling blackouts to prevent the already stretched national grid from collapsing.

"Much of the debate wants to hear an address that does not 'waffle' about policy but promises to 'get things done'. But if that is all we hear, we are likely to remain stuck where we are," said Friedman. Zuma's address to parliament in Cape Town is due to start at 1700 GMT.—*Reuters*

President Jacob Zuma

Huawei expects strong sales for new flagship phone Ascend P7

*A model poses for photos with the latest mobile phone Ascend P7 from Huawei at the CommunicAsia exhibition held in Singapore's Marina Bay Sands Expo, on 17 June, 2014. The CommunicAsia and BroadcastAsia kicked off at the Marina Bay Sands Expo on Tuesday.—*XINHUA

SINGAPORE, 18 June — China-based telecommunications giant Huawei is expecting better sales for its latest flagship smart phone Ascend P7, compared with its precursor Ascend P6, senior executives of the company said here on Tuesday.

"We envision that LTE (long-term evolution) will experience major growth in the coming three years as the volume of high speed networks increases, leading to a surge in mobile data traffic," said Low Han Thong, country head of Huawei Device Singapore.

The 4G LTE-enabled Ascend P7 was launched globally on 7 May at a ceremony in Paris. Executives of the company said that by 13 June it has sold over 1 million units. The company has set a target of 10 million units in 12 months, media reports said.

Huawei sold about 4 million units of the precursor Ascend P6, which was launched in June 2013. It proved especially popular in China and Western Europe, and the company has said it has helped Huawei gain a strong position in the premium segment.

The Ascend P7 is a significant improvement from its precursor P6, which is not 4G LTE-enabled. The P7 is powered by a HiSilicon Kirin 910T 1.8 GHz quad-core chipset and a Mali450 GPU. It features a 5-inch full high-definition display, an industry- leading 8-million-pixel front camera and a 13-million-pixel rear camera.

The phone is also slim at 6.5 millimetres thin and has an obviously more chic design and finish than the Ascend P6.

Huawei has also held ceremonies to unveil the P7 for regional markets such as the Middle East on 11 June in Dubai, and the South Pacific on 17 June at the CommunicAsia in Singapore, respectively.

It is priced at 699 Singapore dollars in Singapore, 499 euros in Europe and 2,888 yuan in China, respectively. In comparison, the iPhone 5s is now selling at 988 Singapore dollars or above, or 649 US dollars and above.

The phone has been well received online and selling quickly from online stores.

Huawei sold 52 million units of smart phones in 2013, making it the third largest producer of smart phones after Samsung and Apple, though it is still far behind the two leaders in terms of sales value.

Xinhua

Chile's giant space lab aims for heights with final antenna

SANTIAGO, 18 June — The arrival of the 66th and final giant antenna at the world's largest land-based space observatory in the Chilean desert will allow the endeavor to better probe the mysteries of the universe, the project's director said on Tuesday.

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array's (ALMA) antennae are situated high on the Chajnantor Plateau, a remote area of the Atacama desert in northern Chile at 16,400 feet (5,000 meters) above sea level.

There, the dryness and altitude create some of the best conditions for observing the night sky.

With all the antennae working in unison as a giant telescope, the observatory will provide astronomers with a window into the "cold universe" where cosmic secrets wait to be discovered, said project director Pierre Cox.

He added that ALMA is poised to reach its full potential next year.

"Up to now ALMA's observations and data were published with 16 to 20 antennae, now we're going to have double that or more, hence there will be a jump in sensitivity: better, quicker and more data," Cox said.

"I think there will be a real stream of scientific results in the coming months and years."

The new 12-meter (13-yard) diameter dish is the 25th European antenna to be transported up to the observatory.

It will work alongside 25 other antennae from North America and four from East Asia, as well as 12 smaller 7-meter (7.7-yard) dishes from East Asia.

The $1.1 billion telescope, which began full-scale operation in March, has already spotted galaxies expelling gas and a star formation near the center of the Milky Way's supermassive black hole.

It also has captured the first image of an icy ring around a distant star.

ALMA is funded by the European Union, the United States, Canada, Taiwan and Japan.

Reuters

Amazon expected to unveil 3D smartphone to court mobile shoppers

SEATTLE, 18 June — Amazon.com Inc's newest mobile device, a smartphone that may sport a 3D screen, is the retailer's latest attempt to exert its influence over the way consumers shop online.

Chief Executive Officer Jeff Bezos will preside over a mystery launch on Wednesday near its Seattle campus. Industry observers predict the arrival of a long-rumored smartphone after years of development.

It is unclear if a 3D display, as widely reported, is enough to help the new entree stand out in a crowded field dominated by Apple Inc's seven-year-old iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd Galaxy devices. Three-quarters of US consumers online already own a smartphone, according to online data tracking service comScore.

But its introduction reflects how smartphones and tablets are fast becoming how many consumers

Amazon CEO and Chairman Jeff Bezos

view and buy items online. Mobile commerce grew at almost twice the rate of online retail during the first quarter, according to comScore.

Analysts said Amazon has more opportunities outside the United States. Only 30 percent of the 5.2 billion phones on the market are smartphones, Topeka Capital Markets analyst Victor Anthony said in a 5 June research note.

"As the world shifts toward mobile, how do you make sure Amazon is front and center?" Jefferson Wang, senior partner at IBB Consulting, said in an interview.

Two sources have said the device contains 3D features visible to the eye without special glasses. Analysts expect Amazon's Prime membership programme, which offers features such as movie streaming and two-day delivery, to be tied to the phone. A phone would represent yet another new area for Amazon, which got its start selling books and has since expanded into everything from original television shows to grocery delivery. It could also boost adoption of an Amazon payments platform.

On Tuesday, the Wall Street Journal reported AT&T Inc would carry the smartphone exclusively, as it did the iPhone for years and a short-lived Facebook phone made by HTC Corp that at one point was discounted to 99 cents.

Reuters

YouTube to launch paid music service

SAN FRANCISCO, 18 June — Google Inc's YouTube said on Tuesday that it plans to launch a paid streaming music service, amid criticism that its existing, free video website might block the music videos of labels that do not agree to its terms.

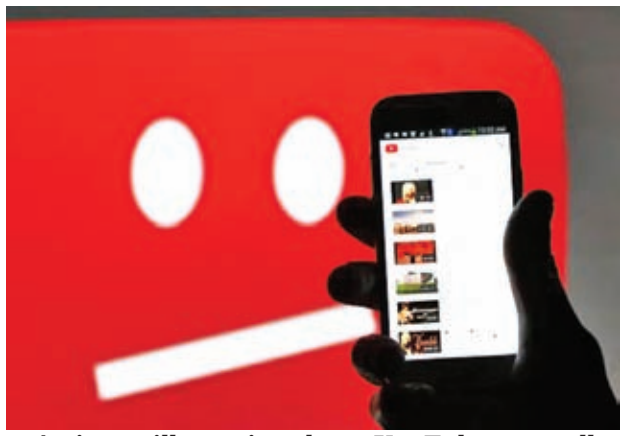
YouTube has partnered with "hundreds of major and independent" music labels for the new service, the company said in a statement, confirming long-running rumors that the world's most popular online video website will offer a paid music service.

The news comes as some music trade groups have criticized YouTube's plans to potentially block the content of certain labels from appearing on YouTube's free, ad-supported Website unless they sign deals to participate in the new, subscription streaming music service. The deals that YouTube is offering are on "highly unfavorable, and non-negotiable terms," according to a news release issued by the Worldwide Independent Music Industry Network last month.

YouTube declined to comment on the terms of the deals, but said in a statement that the new service would provide new revenue for the music industry.

"We're adding subscription-based features for music on YouTube with this in mind — to bring our music partners new revenue streams in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars YouTube already generates for them each year," YouTube said in a statement.

Reuters



*A picture illustration shows YouTube on a cell phone, in front of a YouTube copyright message regarding a video on an LCD screen, in central Bosnian town of Zenica, early on 18 June, 2014.—*REUTERS

Hillary Clinton notes distance from Obama on Syria rebels

WASHINGTON, 18 June — Potential Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton pointed out her differences with President Barack Obama on Tuesday over his decision not to arm moderate Syrian rebels, as neighboring Iraq struggles to cope with extremist spillover from Syria.

"We pushed very hard. But as I say in my book, I believe that Harry Truman was right, the buck stops with the president," Clinton said in a CNN interview.

The former secretary of state said she, along with the then heads of the Pentagon and CIA tried but failed to persuade Obama to arm the rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, but that the White House resisted.

Clinton said it was not clear whether arming moderates in Syria would have prevented the rise of the al-Qaeda splinter group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which has swept toward Baghdad aiming to build a Muslim caliphate across the Iraqi-Syrian border.

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (R) sits for an interview with Greta Van Susteren (L) at the FOX News Channel studio in Washington on 17 June, 2014. REUTERS

"It's very difficult, in retrospect, to say that would have prevented this," she said. She said it is too soon to tell whether American policy in Syria was a failure.

The former secretary of state, senator and first lady has been offering views that differ from Obama's on foreign policy in recent months, including on issues such as Iran's nuclear programme and dealings with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In an interview with Fox News on Tuesday, Clinton also said German Chancellor Angela Merkel had every right to be upset with disclosures that the National Security Agency had listened in on her cellphone as part of its large-scale surveillance of electronic communications in Germany.

"It was absolutely uncalled for," Clinton said.

"There is work that we need to do with the Germans and inside Germany," she said, recalling that some of the hijackers in the 11 Sept attacks got part of their training in Hamburg.

But Clinton added: "That has nothing has to do with Angela Merkel's cellphone, and that should be off limits."

Clinton, who ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008, has said she will not decide before November's congressional elections whether to run for president in 2016, but is regarded by many as the Democratic front-runner. Her CNN interview was organized as part of a tour to promote her newly released book, "Hard Choices."

Fox News also asked Clinton about accusations that the Internal Revenue Service targeted the tax status of organizations with names linked to the conservative Tea Party movement and if she agreed with Obama's characterization that it was a "phony scandal." "I think that any time the IRS is involved for many people it's a real scandal," she said.

Reuters

Wanted Mexican drug dealer arrested en route to World Cup game

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 June — A suspected Mexican drug trafficker was arrested in Rio de Janeiro on Monday night as he waited to board a plane to Fortaleza where he had tickets for Mexico's World Cup game against Brazil, police said.

They said Jose Diaz Barajas, who is wanted on suspicion of trafficking methamphetamine to the United States, was arrested by Brazilian police on a warrant from Interpol and will remain detained until a judge decides on a US extradition request. Mexico play hosts Brazil on Tuesday in a Group A match in the northeastern city of Fortaleza.

"He was low-profile and used real documents to entre the country because he thought that nobody was looking for him," said Luiz Cravo Dorea, head of the federal police's international coordination center. "But we knew he had bought tickets to watch the game."

Brazil has taken pains to ramp up security during the World Cup, with about 100,000 police patrolling the 12 host cities complemented by nearly 60,000 soldiers. Dorea said at a news conference on Tuesday that agents had followed Diaz Barajas since he crossed the border from Paraguay on 11 June but delayed his arrest because they wanted to know if he planned drug deals in Brazil.—*Reuters*

Top China diplomat meets Vietnam officials amid tensions over oil rig

HANOI, 18 June — China's top diplomat began a round of meetings with Vietnamese officials in Hanoi on Wednesday as the two countries try to repair a rupture in ties over China's positioning of an oil rig in disputed waters early last month.

But many obstacles remain to resolving one of the worst breakdowns in Sino-Vietnamese relations since the neighbours fought a brief border war in 1979.

Among the challenges likely to come up in talks: The continued presence of the rig in South China Sea waters claimed by both countries as well as Beijing's demand for compensation in the wake of anti-Chinese riots that erupted in Vietnam in the days after the drilling platform was deployed.

Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi (L) shakes hands with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh at the Government's Guesthouse, in Hanoi on 18 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi, who outranks the foreign minister, first met Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh.

The two officials shook hands in front of reporters without smiling and said little before the media was ushered out of the room at a government guesthouse. Outside the building, neither country's national flag was flying, as is customary when senior foreign visitors attend meetings in Hanoi.

Yang will later hold talks with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung as well as the head of Vietnam's ruling communist party before attending a dinner hosted by Minh.

No news conferences are planned.

Yang's visit is the highest-level direct contact between the two sides since the rig was parked 240 km (150 miles) off the coast of Vietnam on 2 May.—*Reuters*

Climate change threatens tourism as ski slopes thaw, seas rise

OSLO, 18 June — Climate change is a growing threat to tourism, from thawing ski resorts to coral reefs hit by warmer seas, and the industry itself should do more to curb its soaring greenhouse gas emissions, a study showed on Tuesday.

Tourism's greenhouse gas emissions, on current rising trends buoyed by ever more travel, are set to reach about 10 percent of the world total by 2025 from between 3.9 and 6 percent now, it said.

"The tourism industry will be severely impacted by climate change," according to the study by Cambridge University's Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) and its Judge Business School and the European Climate Foundation.

Coral reefs, for instance, contributed $11.5 billion a year to tourism earnings and are under threat from warmer sea temperatures, rising sea levels and an acidification caused by a build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, it said.

And warmer winters are shortening winter sports seasons and threatening the viability of some ski resorts, according to the report which distils findings about tourism from studies this year by the UN panel of climate scientists.

Ski resorts can try to adapt by attracting summer hikers, for instance, or buy more snow making machines. "But it is hard to tell a positive story around ski resorts," Eliot Whittington, climate change director at CISL, told *Reuters*.

A few areas of the world might benefit from a shift in tourism, such as Alaska or northern Europe. And elsewhere, seasons may shift.

Reuters

Gondolas travel through the snow covered woods along the Streif, the men's Alpine skiing downhill course at the Hahnenkamm mountain of the Austrian Alpine skiing resort of Kitzbuehel on 22 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Congratulations

Our heartfelt congratulations to my beloved and devoted Husband and dearest Dad
Dr. Myint Han
Honorary Consul (Consulate of Sweden)
P.E., Fellow-AAET (ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology)
Member-Myanmar Engineering Council
Deputy Director General (retired)
(Myanma Scientific and Technological Research Department)
"Recipient of the Award for Outstanding Performance in the Field of Industrial Economy"
Awarded by the Government-4th January 1996
on the occasion for the Awards of **"DIPLOM"** and the Medal of Honor
"THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE POLAR STAR-OFFICER FIRST CLASS"
Awarded by His Majesty King CARL GUSTAF XVI, KING OF SWEDEN
the decoration of which was proceeded by His Excellency Mr. Klas Molin,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia
and Philippines, on behalf of His Majesty King CARL GUSTAF XVI, KING OF SWEDEN
at the opening ceremony of the Section Office of the Embassy of Sweden in Yangon on the National Day of Sweden-6th June 2014.
Your Loving Wife Daw Khin Myint Khine (Ruby), Daughters, Son and Grandchildren

Thank You

My heartfelt thanks to His Excellency Mr. Klas Molin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Myanmar on the occasion of the Awards of one of the highest decorations the "DIPLOM" and the Medal of Honor "THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE POLAR STAR-OFFICER FIRST CLASS" awarded by His Majesty CARL GUSTAF XVI, **KING OF SWEDEN, the decorations of which were proceeded by His Excellency Mr. Klas Molin on behalf of the KING OF SWEDEN, at the opening of the Section Office** of the Embassy of Sweden in Yangon on the National Day of Sweden 6th June 2014.

My deepest appreciation to His Excellency U. Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Bruno Beijer, former Ambassador to U.A.E., officials from the Diplomatic and United Nations Missions, Swedish friends, **working colleagues and associates from the Swedish Embassy in Bangkok who were present at this auspicious occasion. My love and affection to my beloved and** devoted wife Ruby-Daw Khin Myint Khine, who always stands beside me to share the joy and merit together with me on this wonderful event.

Dr. Myint Han
Honorary Consul (Consulate of Sweden)
P.E., Fellow-AAET (ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology)
Member-Myanmar Engineering Council
Deputy Director General (retired)
(Myanma Scientific and Technological Research Department)

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BAO XIANG LING VOY NO (1406)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAO XIANG LING VOY NO (1406) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL TRANSPORATION SERVICES CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301186

MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
Invitation of Open Proposal

1. The Ministry of Electric Power invites all Foreign and Local Investors to submit Proposal for Renting of Gas Engine or Gas Turbine Generator at Kyauk-Phyu, Rakhine State.
2. Natural gas resources for the projects shall be "SHWE" offshore gas.
3. For the proposal both of Technical and Commercial Proposal shall be submitted not later than at 16:00 hr on 16th July 2014.
4. Detail information and Technical Specification can be inquired up to (30-6-2014).

Please contact the following address in office hour;

Contact Address: Managing Director
Myanma Electric Power Enterprise,
Ministry of Electric Power,
Office No. (27), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: +95 67 410202
Fax +95 67 410557

5. Bidding Documents of the project can be available at -

Material Planning Department,
Myanma Electric Power Enterprise
Office No 27, Ministry of Electric Power
Phone +95 67 410282, 410391

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(13/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars/ Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -043(14-15)	1500 Series Well head Equipment & Accessories (5) Sets	US$
(2)	IFB -044(14-15)	2900 Series Well head Equipment & Accessories (4) Sets	US$
(3)	IFB -045(14-15)	900 Series Well head Equipment & Accessories (11) Sets	US$
(4)	IFB -046(14-15)	55 Ton Hydraulic Crawler Crane (1) Unit	US$
(5)	IFB -047(14-15)	Spare Parts for Mud Pump Engine ydraulic Power Pack Ex HDD Rig (11) Items	US$
(6)	IFB -048(14-15)	Spare Parts for Drilling Trailer Hydraulic System Ex HDD Rig (16) Items	US$
(7)	IFB -049(14-15)	Spare Parts for Main Engine Hydraulic Power Pack Ex HDD Rig (7) Items	US$
(8)	IFB -050(14-15)	Roller Chains for EMSCO Drilling Rig (4) Items	US$
(9)	IFB -051(14-15)	Mast Raising Line for ZJ50D Sr-I Rig (2) Nos	US$
(10)	IFB -052(14-15)	Oil & Gas Production Accessories (27) Items	US$
(11)	IFB -053(14-15)	2 7/8" & 2 3/8' Tubing (2) Items	US$
(12)	IFB -054(14-15)	Valves & Fitting (7) Items	US$
(13)	DMP/L-009(14-15)	Telephone Cable (No. 24 AWG 100 Pair, 50 Pair, 20 Pair & 10 Pair) (4) Items	KS
(14)	DMP/L-010(14-15)	Dell Server & Accessories, Laser Jet Printer, Scanner, Fax Machine & Copier (1) Lot	KS
(15)	DMP/L-011(14-15)	Motor for CNG Compressor (3) Items	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-7-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 18th June, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

Car explosion kills one in Somali hospital

MOGADISHU, 18 June —A car bomb explosion killed one person and wounded several others on Wednesday at a hospital in the Somali capital, police and medics said.

The bomb, hidden under one of the front seats of the car owned by a Somali doctor, went off as the driver was parking it at the Keysaney Hospital in the northern suburbs of Mogadishu, police said. "One person died in the explosion and several other people nearby were also injured, two of them seriously," police officer Ahmed Osman said.

Osman said Dr Abdulkadir Hussien Jimale whose car was targeted survived with slight injuries. Jimale is one of the senior staff members of the hospital which offers treatment to the general public as well as to Somali government workers.—*Xinhua*

Nigeria losing $35 million a day from oil theft

ABUJA, 18 June — Nigeria is losing an estimated $35 million (20.6 million pounds) a day from oil theft and needs to put a "full, final stop" to the growing black market for crude exports, according to a national conference report seen by *Reuters* on Tuesday.

Africa's largest economy and top oil producer has been struggling with oil theft for years, with much of the stolen crude leaving the country in tankers.

The energy committee of Nigeria's national conference said in a report submitted this week the losses were "equivalent to $35 million each day," or roughly a quarter of Nigeria's annual revenue. It called on Abuja to "bring this racket to a full, final stop".

"The potential gains should clearly outweigh the cost of any intense security operation to stamp out this economic sabotage," the committee said in the 71-page document, which has not been made public.

Delegates from around the country have been meeting in Abuja for the national conference, which was convened by President Goodluck Jonathan in March with the aim of examining longstanding problems in Africa's most populous country.

Reuters

Adele steps out with chic bob haircut

LOS ANGELES, 18 June — Oscar-winning singer Adele was spotted with a new chic short hairdo.

The mother of one enjoyed a date night out with boyfriend Simon Konecki, dining at celeb hotspot Chiltern Firehouse, reported *Us* magazine.

Donning black leggings and a black top with converse sneakers, the 'Rolling in the Deep' singer looked happy and content.

The Brit has been busy as of late working on her upcoming third studio album. Adele hinted at the album's title when she tweeted on her 26th birthday: "Bye bye 25... See you again later in the year ."

Her first two albums were named 19 and 21, respectively, in honour of the ages she was when she wrote them.—*PTI*

Singer Adele

Colin Firth drops out of Paddington Bear movie

LONDON, 18 June — British actor Colin Firth is no longer attached to star in the 'Paddington' movie as the voice the titular bear.

The 53-year-old 'The King's Speech' star borrowed Gwyneth Paltrow's 'conscious uncoupling' phrase to announce his departure from the family adventure movie, reported Ace Showbiz.

"It's been bittersweet to see this delightful creature take shape and come to the sad realisation that he simply doesn't have my voice," he said in a statement.

"After a period of denial we've chosen conscious uncoupling. I've had the joy of seeing most of the film and it's going to be quite wonderful. I still feel rather protective of this bear and I'm pestering them all with suggestions for finding a voice worthy of him," the actor added.

Produced by David Heyman, the producer of 'Harry Potter' film series, the hilarious movie follows the adventures and mishaps of a talking bear from 'Darkest Peru' who gets adopted by a London family when they find him lost at Paddington Station.

It is set to hit theatres on Christmas Day, 25 December in North America. The trailer was already released last week, but there was no dialogue scene for the bear. No replacement has been announced, but the remaining cast stays including Nicole Kidman, Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent, and Peter Capaldi.

PTI

"It's been bittersweet to see this delightful creature take shape and come to the sad realisation that he simply doesn't have my voice," Colin Firth said in a statement.—PTI

I am stronger post break-up: Jennifer Lopez

Jennifer Lopez recently split up from boyfriend Casper Smart.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 18 June — Pop star Jennifer Lopez, who recently split up from boyfriend Casper Smart, says she feels refreshed and has a new-found confidence about her career. The 44-year-old singer, a mother of two, broke up with Smart after two and a half years of dating, but she is coping very well, reported *Billboard* magazine. "I don't feel like I have anything to prove anymore. Things have changed so much for me. I had to really do some soul searching and just realise a lot of things about love, and now I feel like I come from a place where I'm stronger and, I think, better," Lopez said. — *PTI*

Prosecutors drop domestic spat case against Paul Simon, wife

MILFORD, (Connecticat) 18 June — Prosecutors have decided not to go forward with disorderly conduct charges against Grammy Award-winning musicians Paul Simon and Edie Brickell after the couple had a shoving match in April at their Connecticut home, a court clerk said on Tuesday.

Simon, 72, and Brickell, 48, who married in 1992, were not present at Norwalk Superior Court on Tuesday. At a hearing last month, the couple had told Judge William Wenzel that the spat was atypical of their relationship and that they posed no threat to one another.

The charges were filed against the couple after New Canaan police were called to a cottage on their property in the wealthy Connecticut suburb on 26 April.

On Tuesday, prosecutors said that they would not pursue the charges although they would reserve the right to reopen the case if the couple are arrested or charged again within the next 13 months, Deputy Court Clerk Emmy Kalmanidis said. Wenzel accepted the prosecution's decision to drop the case at a hearing on Tuesday afternoon.

Simon had attempted to leave the cottage, Brickell blocked the door and the incident escalated into a shoving match, their attorney said. Simon was given a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003 for his work as part of the duo Simon and Garfunkel, which produced hits including "The Sound of Silence," and is a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Brickell, best known for the 1988 hit "What I Am," released by Edie Brickell & New Bohemians, won a Grammy this year with comedian Steve Martin for their bluegrass song "Love Has Come for You."—*Reuters*

Andrew Bowman (L), attorney for singer Edie Brickell (C) and her husband singer Paul Simon (L), speaks at the Norwalk Superior Court in Norwalk, Connecticut on 16 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Lady Gaga's plagiarism suit dismissed

LOS ANGELES, 18 June — A plagiarism lawsuit against pop star Lady Gaga has been dismissed. US District Judge Marvin E Aspen ruled that the 28-year-old star's hit song 'Judas' did not feature samples of musician Rebecca Francescatti's 1999 track Juda, reported *Billboard* magazine.

In his conclusion the judge stated: "We conclude, as a matter of law, that the two songs are not substantially similar.

"The songs do not share enough unique features to give rise to a breach of the duty not to copy another's work."—*PTI*

In his conclusion the judge stated: "We conclude, as a matter of law, that the two songs are not substantially similar.
PTI

GENERAL

Overloaded boat sinks off Malaysia, 34 Indonesians missing, three dead

A Malaysia Maritime helicopter is seen in the air during a search and rescue for the suspected illegal Indonesian immigrants, off Malaysia's western coast, outside Kuala Lumpur on 18 June, 2014.—REUTERS

KUALA LANGAT, (Malaysia), 18 June — An overloaded boat carrying suspected illegal Indonesian immigrants sank as it left Malaysia's west coast early on Wednesday, and at least three passengers drowned and 34 were missing.

The boat, whose passengers included women and children, sank at the mouth of a river shortly after midnight as it left Malaysia's Carey Island, likely bound for Indonesia's Sumatra island, officials and witnesses said.

Police said the boat lacked safety equipment such as life jackets, but that rescuers were still holding out hope of finding more survivors. The boat went down in shallow water close to shore.

"It is likely that survivors could have swum ashore and went into hiding since they have no legal documents here," said Mohammed Hambali Yaakup, head of operations in the area for the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA).

Hambali said he could not confirm reports that a people-smuggling gang had been involved with the boat. All 60 survivors have been arrested under immigration laws, he said.

Malaysia, one of Southeast Asia's wealthier economies, has long been a magnet for illegal immigrants from Indonesia and other poorer countries in the region. Many undocumented Indonesians work in Malaysia's extensive oil palm plantations, a mainstay of its economy.

"This was an illegal boat and all the passengers were Indonesian," Mohamad Zuri, another MMEA official told *Reuters*.

Police said two bodies had been recovered. A *Reuters* reporter saw three bodies — two on the deck of a rescue boat and another washed up on shore.

Rescuers were scouring the area for survivors and had deployed a helicopter, one large ship and eight smaller boats in the operation, officials said.

Despite periodic crackdowns on illegal workers, Malaysia is home to an estimated 2 million undocumented immigrants or about 7 percent of its 29 million population.

The question of migrant workers has long been a touchy issue in Indonesia. Both candidates in a July 9 Indonesian presidential race have said that Indonesian workers overseas, often doing menial labour, need better protection.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(19-6-2014, Thursday)

6:00 am
* Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:30 am
* Physical Exercisse

7:20 am
* People Talks

8:00 am
* News/ International News

8:30 am
* India Drama Series

9:00 am
* Shwe Yin Chone Than

10:00 am
* News

10:20 am
* TV Drama Series

12:00 pm
* News / International News / Weather Report

2:05 pm
* Teleplay

2:20 pm
* Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance

3:00 pm
* News

3:30 pm
* FIFA World Cup (2014) (Cameroon & Croatia)

5:15 pm
* Musical Programme

5:30 pm
* India Drama Series

6:00 pm
* News /Weather Report

6:20 pm
* Approaching Science Discover World

6:50 pm
* TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
* News

8:35 pm
* Current Affairs

9:00 pm
* News
* Documentary
* CLEVER
* Fashion Show

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(19-6-14 07:00am~ 20-6-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* Gold: King of All Metals
* World News
* Short Cut "The Eel Business"
* Local News
* Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business
* World News
* A Visit to Htam Hsan Cave A Miraculous Place
* Local News
* Myanmar Mega Factory (Episode-3)
* World News
* Lively Group Folk Dance of Kayan Nationals
* Local News
* Life In Night …….. Art In Life (Episode-2) Part-1
* World News
* Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
* Local News
* Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Episode-3) Part-1
* World News
* Cosplayer
* Local News
* Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab
* World News
* The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
* Local News
* A Simple And Peaceful Life
* World News
* Snake Dancer
* Local News
* Life In Night …….. Art In Life (Episode-2) Part-1
* World News
* Talented Musicians

Rooney role the question for England

SAO PAULO, 18 June — Start him. Drop him. Move him. The whole of England seems to have an opinion on what Roy Hodgson should do with Wayne Rooney for their Group D clash against Uruguay on Thursday.

It was the under-fire forward's inviting cross swatted home by Daniel Sturridge that got England level against Italy in their opener on Saturday but, posted on the left, Rooney looked short of fitness and struggled with defensive duties at times.

Despite the clamour in some quarters for Rooney to be dropped to the bench, Hodgson is likely to switch him to a central role behind Sturridge, pushing the jet-heeled Raheem Sterling out wide to romp up and down Uruguay's right.

The pace of Sterling, Sturridge and Danny Welbeck could cause real problems for the South Americans' defence, which crumbled in the face of Costa Rica's direct running in a shock 3-1 defeat in the first game in the group.

While England's 2-1 defeat on Saturday was their first in a World Cup opener since 1986, they go into their second game at the Corinthians arena in a confident frame of mind after a fearless display full of pace and promise against Italy.

Striker Sturridge acknowledged the level of performance promised much for the future but said England could not be satisfied with being unlucky losers.

"At the end of the day it's about results, not performances, and we realise that as a team as well," he said on Monday.

"I don't think we need to change much, we just need a bit of luck, a break, but we will take the positives out of that and the end thing is that we want results," he told reporters.

Hodgson savoured what he called England's "best performance" since he took over two years ago, suggesting he feels little reason to ring the changes for Copa America champions Uruguay.

Like England, Uruguay must recover from an opening loss but there were few positives from a dire performance against Costa Rica in which right back Maxi Pereira was sent off in stoppage time.

England's Wayne Rooney (C) talks with Raheem Sterling (L) during a training session at the 2014 World Cup in Rio de Janeiro on 16 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Coach Oscar Tabarez told reporters after training on Monday that his team had to be wary of England's front men, who showed "great technical potential" against Italy. —*Reuters*

The New Light of Myanmar

Ochoa hero, Akinfeev villain in World Cup draws

BRASILIA, 18 June — Mexico goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa produced a heroic performance in a 0-0 draw with Brazil and his Russian counterpart Igor Akinfeev was the villain in a 1-1 draw with South Korea as the World Cup produced more drama on Tuesday.

While Ochoa kept Brazil at bay, the hapless Akinfeev was left to bury his head in his hands after he allowed Lee Keun-ho's straightforward shot from 25 metres to slip through his grasp.

Algeria ended their 28-year wait for a World Cup goal when they took a shock lead against Belgium although it was not enough as the highly-rated Europeans hit back to win 2-1 in the day's other match.

Ochoa produced four world class saves to deny Paulinho, Neymar (twice) and Thiago Silva when they seemed certain to score in an intense, end-to-end match in tropical Fortaleza which left both teams with four points from two games in Group A.

Silva thought he had won the game in the closing minutes with a powerful header only to see his effort parried at point blank range by the Mexican keeper.

Despite the scoreline, the match was anything but dull and the Mexicans enjoyed long periods of possession, bravely taking the game to the hosts in the second half.

"I believe this was the best match of my life because this was a World Cup game and this is very important," said Ochoa.

"I don't know whether I can think of another goalkeeper in memory...someone who has done what Memo (Ochoa) did today," Mexico coach Miguel Herrera told a news conference.

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari also praised Ochoa, describing his performance as spectacular, and could not resist pointing out that this time, unlike the controversial 3-1 win over Croatia, his side had a late penalty appeal turned down.

"There was no penalty in favour of Brazil," said 'Big Phil', shrugging his shoulders.

Cameroon and Croatia, the other teams in the group, who are yet to get off the mark, meet in Manaus on Wednesday.

In the Group H clash in Cuiaba, Akinfeev's blushes on 68 minutes were spared when veteran Alexander Kerzhakov pounced to equalise for Russia after more scrappy goalkeeping by Jung Sung-ryong six minutes later. Much-fancied Belgium were made to work hard for a 2-1 win over Algeria in Belo Horizonte after the North Africans took a shock lead with a Sofiane Feghouli penalty in the 25th minute.—*Reuters*

Mexico's goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa makes a save during the 2014 World Cup Group A soccer match between Brazil and Mexico at the Castelao arena in Fortaleza on 17 June, 2014.—REUTERS

2014 FIFA World Cup Groupstage Standing

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Group A								
1) Brazil	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
2) Mexico	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
3) Cameroon	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
4) Croatia	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Group B								
1) Netherlands	1	1	0	0	5	1	4	3
2) Chile	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
3) Australia	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
4) Spain	1	0	0	1	1	5	-4	0
Group C								
1) Colombia	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
2) Côte d'Ivoire	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
3) Greece	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
4) Japan	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Group D								
1) Costa Rica	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
2) Italy	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
3) England	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
4) Uruguay	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Group E								
1) France	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
2) Switzerland	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
3) Ecuador	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
4) Honduras	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0
Group F								
1) Argentina	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
2) Iran	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
3) Nigeria	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4) Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Group G								
1) Germany	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
2) USA	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
3) Ghana	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
4) Portugal	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
Group H								
1) Belgium	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
2) Korea Republic	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
3) Russia	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
4) Algeria	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0

Japan and Greece go back to the well for Natal clash

Japan's national soccer team player Maya Yoshida takes part in the training session at Japan's team base camp in the town of Itu northwest of Sao Paulo on 17 June, 2014.—REUTERS

NATAL, (Brazil), 18 June — After losing their Group C openers, Japan and Greece will be looking to rediscover the qualities which got them to Brazil as they bid to keep their campaigns alive at the Dunas arena on Thursday.

There is little doubt that only three points will do if either side is to extend their stay in Brazil beyond the group stage.

Japan's attacking flair helped them become the first country to qualify for Brazil but they paid the price for uncharacteristic timidity after taking an early lead in their opening 2-1 loss to Ivory Coast in Recife.

Abandoning the fast, intricate inter-passing that gave them the lead through Keisuke Honda after 16 minutes, they sat back in defence and were ultimately bullied out of the contest by the powerful Ivorians.

"Possession, that is our strength," striker Honda said this week.

"When we have the ball we just need to keep the ball and not give it away easily. When we do lose the ball we should press immediately. That is our philosophy."

Italian coach Alberto Zaccheroni is unlikely to make sweeping changes to his side, although Yoshito Okubo might have done enough as a substitute in Recife to get the nod over the disappointing Yuya Osaka up front.

Attacking midfielder Shinji Kagawa has also taken some flak for his display against the Elephants but his place in the side is probably safe with Japan fans hoping he might be able to produce something special to unlock the Greek defence.

Former European champions Greece conceded four goals in 10 qualifying matches for Brazil but almost as many in their first match of the tournament, a 3-0 defeat to Colombia in Belo Horizonte.

They came to the World Cup promising a more adventurous style and, considering themselves unlucky to have gone down by such a margin to the Colombians, will not be abandoning it.

"Everyone expected we would have 11 men behind the ball, defend, defend, defend and give everything to keep a clean sheet," said experienced striker Giorgios Samaras.

"But I think what they saw was a team that likes to attack, that moves the ball really well, and that tries always to create chances.

"We went out to win against Colombia, and that philosophy will not change. We just hope it brings a better result for us because Japan is now a must, must-win game for us.

"We created chances against Colombia and that's something we can't forget. On another day, it could have been us winning, and that's something we need to take into this massive match."

That may be, but Portuguese coach Fernando Santos will certainly be hoping for an end to concentration lapses at the back that cost the team so dear in Belo Horizonte.

Tricky winger Giannis Fetfatzidis's better ball retention might get him the nod ahead of forward Dimitris Salpingidis, while Fanis Gekas could make way for Kostas Mitroglou up front despite hitting the bar against Colombia.

"Mitrogoal" is Greece's most expensive export and although a knee injury disrupted his preparations for the tournament, the time for caution is over.

Reuters

World Cup 2014 Brazil

Match-21	Colombia	22:30 MST (19.6.2014)	Côte d'Ivoire
Match-22	Uruguay	01:30 MST (20.6.2014)	England
Match-23	Japan	04:30 MST (20.6.2014)	Greece

World Cup 2014 Results

Match 15	Belgium	2-1	Algeria
Match 16	Brazil	0-0	Mexico
Match 17	Russia	1-1	Korea Republic

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